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NSC BRIEFING

8 June 1954

MAY REPORT ON SOVIET ACREAGE EXPANSION PROGRAM

A. Altai area acreage expansion

1. Wheat sowing plan overfulfilled for this year by substantial margin.
2. Fodder grains sowing exceed plan by 81 percent.

B. Kazakhstan acreage expansion exceeds goal by slight margin

C. Virgin lands tilled this spring exceed planned goal by more than 50% in these areas.

D. Varied weather conditions from good to bad noted throughout USSR

E. Conclusions

1. Altai and Kazakhstan are the two most important regions in the new acreage expansion program.

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2. Surpassing goals in these two areas indicates that over-all goals will be exceeded.
3. Initial difficulties for supplying machinery and manpower have been overcome for this year in at least these two important areas.
4. Plan expansion for 1954 of 6 million acres for the country as a whole is less than 20 percent of the total plan expansion of 30 million acres for 1954-1955.
5. Prospects for production that can be expected from this area is not clear. Precipitation over winter months for most of the new area was at or below normal. Weather conditions for May, June and July are deciding factors as to success of program.

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